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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT NO. [redacted] 25X1

TOPIC BEM AAA Officers' School in Budapest

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EVALUATION [redacted] PLACE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1

25X1 DATE OF CONTENT [redacted]

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PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 1 March 1951, the BEM AAA officers' school, [redacted] was located in the former Andrassy Barracks at 2 Hungaria Street, Budapest-10. The overt address "BEM AAA Officers' School" has been used since December 1950. The various batteries of the school also had other designations. For example, the 4th Battery was called Z-Group and the 5th Battery was called K-Group. [redacted] 25X1
25X1 [redacted] the barracks installation as the BEM Barracks. Several buildings were constructed there after World War II and construction work was still being done there until March 1951. Trainees were told that the school was subordinate to the National Air Defense Command on Mester Street, Budapest. (1)

2. The school was organized into the headquarters, 1 technical battalion, 1 medium AAA battalion, 1 light AAA battalion, the 10th through 12th Batteries with special missions, and 1 headquarters unit.

3. The personnel of the school headquarters included Lieutenant Colonel László Baranya, school commandant; Lieutenant Colonel Szabó (fnu), deputy school commandant; Major Janos Balko, political officer; and an assistant political officer. The school consisted of the following sections:
Political Section. Consisting of 1 officer in charge and 10 other officers, plus NCOs and clerks.
Training Section. Consisting of 1 officer in charge; 3 attached officers; Senior Lieutenant Lenárt (fnu), cultural officer; the 12 officers giving artillery instruction; about 12 officers, headed by Major Mezö (fnu), giving instruction on general subjects; 3 civilian instructors lecturing on mathematics; 3 officers giving signal-communications instruction; 3 officers giving geography instruction and 8 officers giving tactical instruction. Other officers known to source included Major Szabó (fnu), chemical warfare instructor; Captain Janos Lukács, technical instructor; Senior Lieutenant János Horvath and Junior Lieutenant Bloslaki (fnu), ballistics instructors; Junior Lieutenant Mark (fnu), motor transport instructor; Senior Lieutenant Vas (fnu), athletic officer; and Junior Lieutenant Gyorgy Zsernovitzky, ordnance instructor.
Personnel Subsection. Consisting of 1 officer in charge, about 3 other officers, and NCOs and clerks.
Counterintelligence Section. Consisting of 1 officer in charge and 3 or 4 other counterintelligence officers, including Junior Lieutenant Kovács (fnu).
Finance Section, Classified Documents Section and Supply Office. Consisting of the officers in charge, NCOs and clerks, and two additional officers in the

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classified documents section.

4. The technical battalion consisted of the commanding officer, the political officer, NCOs and clerks; the 1st Battery conducting a one-year course; the 2d Battery conducting a two-year course; and the 3d Battery called légvédelmi rádió tenerós (L.R.B.) (AA radio direction finding). It trained AAA ordnance officers who were detached to the AAA units upon graduation. The 1st and 2d Batteries had four platoons each which were numbered consecutively from 11 through 14 and from 21 through 24 respectively. Each platoon, in turn, consisted of four squads with 1 platoon leader and about 30 trainees in each squad. The 3d Battery had 2 platoons with the numerical designations 31 and 34 respectively.

5. The medium AAA battalion consisted of Lieutenant Otto Paróczi, commanding officer; Senior Lieutenant László Deák, political officer; NCOs and clerks; and the 4th through 6th Batteries. Each battery had a strength of 125 men and consisted of 4 platoons with 4 sections each. Officers of the 5th Battery included Lieutenant György Gerncsár, commanding officer; and Junior Lieutenants József Gyulai, Alfons Fleischer and László Murányi, political officer and platoon leaders respectively. Junior Lieutenant Klein (fnu) was political officer of the 4th Battery.

6. The light AAA battalion, commanded by Captain Szabó (fnu), consisted of the 7th through 9th Batteries and was organized in the same manner as the batteries of the medium AAA battalion.

7. The 10th Battery, with Senior Lieutenant Bak (fnu) as commanding officer and Senior Lieutenant Diszl (fnu) as political officer, conducted a 6-month officers' course. Trainees of this course wore epaulets with a longitudinal gold stripe, whereas the trainees of the other batteries wore white-bordered red epaulets. The strength of the 10th Battery, which consisted almost exclusively of officers, was probably somewhat below that of the other batteries. This battery possibly conducted a continuation or a retraining course.

8. The 12th Heavy AA Machine Gun Battery was probably organized in the same manner as the 1st through 9th Batteries. Missions and organization of the 12th Battery, which was also assigned directly to the school command, [redacted] 25X1

9. The headquarters unit, under the command of an NCO, had a strength of about 130 men. It furnished the personnel required for guard and fatigue duties.

10. There was also a special type of organization to be used in the case of an alert, but no details on this were available. The basic unit for training was the platoon. The personnel of each platoon constituted a classroom unit and were quartered together.

11. Most of the trainees wearing white-bordered red epaulets were volunteers of the 1928 through 1930 classes. The trainees detached to the school from troop units were members of the 1925 through 1928 classes. About 10 percent of the trainees, who came from all parts of the country, were high school graduates. About 90 percent of them came from rural communities and the rest came from cities. Most of the trainees were NCOs or corporals. However, there were also privates and even recruits were admitted if they had a good education and general knowledge. Upon their graduation, the trainees were scheduled to be promoted to the rank of junior lieutenants. Officers' training lasted one year for AA artillerymen, who had completed at least their basic training, and for AAA NCOs. Occasionally, members of other branches of service also attended the courses. The 5th Battery included about 12 party members and most of its personnel were in favor of the people's democracy.

12. Almost all the trainees were equipped with model M-48 x 7.62-mm rifles. NCOs were equipped with model M-48 x 7.62-mm submachine guns with drum magazines and officers carried model M-48 pistols. Each trainee had a gas mask of rubberized

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linen with elastic bands. The filter was screwed directly on the mouthpiece. The students were told that the filter was filled with pulverized apricot stones and feathers. Masks of rubber fabric with an air filter, carried in a bag on the hip, were observed after May 1951. The filter and mask were connected by a ribbed hose. It was said that these masks were of Soviet origin.

13. The technical battalion was equipped with 4 model M-48 x 85-mm AA guns, 6 model M-48 x 37-mm AA guns, 2 ballistic directors, 4 model M-48 BI telescopes, 2 model M-48 DJA range finders, 4 model M-49 artillery compasses, 1 model M-48 x 7.62-mm light machine gun with drum magazine, 4 model M-48 x 12.7-mm (?) AA machine guns, and 1 Maxim machine gun. [redacted] 25X1
25X1 [redacted] not known the equipment and armament of the 3d Battery.

14. Each battery of the medium AAA battalion was equipped with 4 model M-48 x 85-mm AA guns, 1 ballistic director, 1 model M-48 DJA range finder, 1 model M-48 BI telescope and 1 model M-49 artillery compass. In addition, the battalion had 1 Maxim machine gun. Each battery of the light AAA battalion had 6 model M-48 x 37-mm AA guns and 1 model M-48 range finder with a 1 or 2 meter base. Other details on the equipment of this battalion were not known. The 11th Battery was equipped with 16 model M-48 x 12.7-mm (?) heavy AA machine guns
25X1 [redacted] only from a distance.

15. In addition to the weapons belonging to the units, there were 1 model M-48 x 85-mm AA gun, 1 model M-48 x 37-mm AA gun, 1 ballistic director and 1 model M-48 DJA range finder for instruction purposes in the lecture rooms of the school. (2)

16. Signal equipment which was issued for instruction, included models R-3 and R-7 radio sets and Hungarian field telephone sets. The trainees practiced with the model R-3 radio sets.

17. The school was equipped with 6 x 3-ton ZIS trucks; about 15 x 3-ton Rába and Csepel trucks; 4 weapon carriers; 1 Pobjeda sedan belonging to the school commandant; 3 BMW sedans; 3 GAZ sedans; and vehicles of new types from the Soviet Zone of Germany.

18. The school had two versions of the model M-48 x 85-mm AA gun. The older version was withdrawn in December 1950 and replaced by a gun which, the trainees were told during instruction, had been constructed in 1941. The advantage of the newer version was the improved mechanism for faster unlimbering. Another advantage of the newer gun was the fact that either end could be attached to the towing vehicle. In addition, the new version had an automatic fuze setter for 180 fuzes as compared with only 140 or 160 fuzes, for the older gun. (3)
25X1 Shells known [redacted] included a model T-5 shell, with a clockwork fuze, used against air targets; a model KTM-11 shell with a Trotillat (sic) charge and an impact fuze, used against infantry targets; an armor-piercing shell used against armored vehicles; and a special armor-piercing shell. No instruction was given concerning this special armor-piercing shell.

19. The ballistic director used at the school was a Soviet-improved version of the German model PUASO-3 set which could be used with a radar set. The ballistic director weighed 2,400 kg and was operated by 1 team leader and 10 men with one other man operating the generator. The model M-48 DJA range finder had a 4 meter base and was operated by a team leader and three men handling the traversing mechanism, the elevating mechanism and the range-finder mechanism. The model M-48 BI observation telescope was used to determine the firing position and the target point and was used for fire control. It was operated by one man. The model M-49 artillery compass was used to determine the firing position and target points.

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25X1 20. [redacted] the model M-48 x 37-mm AA gun, but heard that it was a Soviet artillery piece, built in 1941, which had a maximum effective range of 3 to 4 km and could be also fired while in motion.

21. The classroom instruction was patterned after the instruction held at secondary schools. Since a large number of students had attended only six classes of elementary school, it was necessary to organize study groups in the various classes and give instruction collectively, with one or two of the more advanced students supervising four to six less advanced. Teachers were present in the classrooms when individual work was under way to act as counselors.

22. Subjects of instruction included political indoctrination, tactics, the US Army, employment of the AA artillery, ballistics, basic and combat training, ordnance, optics and electrical engineering, mathematics, Russian language and general instruction on various branches of service. Six hours of instruction on political themes were given per week. Instruction in tactics (4) was given for six weeks (sic) and in general dealt with the objectives of the various branches of service. The infantry was called the most important branch of the army, the armored command was considered one of the most important offensive branches and the cavalry was considered a branch which was still modern. The most important objectives of the air force were said to be supporting the infantry and destroying enemy supply lines. Tactics discussed included mobile and stationary defense, defense along rivers and in woods, attack by advancing forces, attack on an enemy holding a defensive position and attack on an enemy in movement. It was said that offensive operations were possible only with forces stronger than those of the enemy. (4) Instruction on the American Army stressed the fact that the American infantry was overmotorized. The students were given data concerning the American Sherman tank and data for the identification of American aircraft. It was said that the combat units of the American Air Force chiefly performed saturation bombing, with each bomber unit being escorted by 2 or 3 fighter units. Instruction in firing was given for eight hours a week and was usually in the form of field exercises, showing coordinated action of AA guns and 85-mm guns. Training in firing was given for two hours a week. Instruction on basic and combat training also included instruction in makeshift reinforcement of bridges and roads. Instruction on equipment, including optical and electrical equipment, was given for 4 to 5 hours a week and dealt with the ballistic director, range finder, observation telescope and artillery compass. Instruction in the most basic elements of the optical and electrotechnical sciences was given in a manner which would have been suitable for about secondary school students. Two hours per week were devoted to mathematics and two hours to ordnance. The latter instruction concentrated on parts of the 85-mm AA gun and their functions. Instruction in the Russian language was given for 1 or 2 hours a week. The students were taught the elements of the Russian language and the Cyrillic alphabet and to read and understand Russian text. General instruction included map reading, signal-communications, motor transport, supply, medical service, military procedure and gas protection. Maps used at the school were in scales of 1:25,000, 1:50,000, 1:75,000 and 1:200,000. Both old and new conventional map markings were taught. Instruction in signal-communications included a brief course on radio set R-3. Chemical warfare agents discussed in instruction on gas protection included Clark 1 and 2 (diphenylchorarsine) mustard gas, Lewisite, chlorine, chlorpicrin and carbon monoxide. The various chemical warfare agents were classified as irritant agents, vesicant agents, choking agents and poisonous agents which could be either fired or sprayed or spread with smoke shells. The students were told that the use of gas would be a factor in a future war and that the U.S.S.R. had the necessary chemical agents for such warfare.

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23. The working day of the students began at 5:30 a.m. and ended at 10:30 p.m. Taps were at 11 p.m. and the only rest period was from 3:30 to 5 p.m., when the students had to take a nap. Each student had 1 service uniform, 1 new dress uniform, 2 pairs of boots, 1 new and 1 old; 3 sets of new underwear, 1 new overcoat and cap, gloves, 1 rucksack and 1 shelter half. While at the school they were given the pay of a corporal which, together with a tobacco ration, was issued every 10 days and amounted to 32 forints. Cost of food which was good and ample was 7 forints per day. Students who came from a parachute unit in Tapolca (Y 4/D 35) said that their food had cost 11 forints daily and that it was even better than in the Budapest school.

24. Lieutenant Colonel Istvan Nagy was mentioned as commander of the headquarters to which the school was subordinate, which was referred to as the National Air Defense Command. It was said that AAA units and the national air defense headquarters would be placed under this Command. The AAA units, which were called "special AA units", were composed of an AAA division for air raid protection and an undetermined number of independent AAA regiments. The national air defense headquarters was superior to regional national defense headquarters which, in turn, exercised command over the air alert warning posts.

25X1 [redacted] Comments.

(1) The location and designation of the barracks installation are known. Previous information indicated that, up to the summer of 1949, it was occupied by elements of the Kossuth Academy.

(2) The model designation M-46 is believed to indicate the year in which the piece was delivered by the Soviets and introduced to the Hungarian Army. All arms and equipment mentioned are of Soviet origin and are known from World War II.

(3) It is believed that the two versions are the Soviet model 37 x 67-mm AA gun.

(4) This instruction in tactics is largely based on the field service regulations of the Soviet Army.

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